

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT INTERGOVERNMENTAL POLICY DIVISION

April 29, 2008

Members of the Continuing Legislative Committee on State Planning and Development:

The Honorable Eric D. Coleman

The Honorable Art Feltman

The Honorable Jonathan A. Harris

The Honorable Leonard Fasano

The Honorable Craig A. Miner

The Honorable Joseph J. Crisco, Jr.

The Honorable Bill Finch

The Honorable Antonio (Tony) Guerrera

The Honorable Jack Malone

The Honorable Richard Roy

Dear Senators and Representatives:

In accordance with Section 16a-32 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) is providing notice to the Continuing Legislative Committee on State Planning and Development that it is in receipt of an application for an interim change to the Locational Guidemap of the Conservation and Development Policies Plan for Connecticut, 2005-2010 (C&D Plan), submitted by Landel Realty, LLC. The applicant is requesting the reclassification of approximately 70 acres of land that are currently classified Conservation Area to Neighborhood Conservation, in the Town of Waterford. The applicant is making this request primarily to facilitate the running of public water and sewer to this area.

In accordance with the recent actions of the Legislative Regulation Review Committee, OPM is seeking written approval from the Continuing Committee prior to initiating this proposed revision to the C&D Plan.

If the Continuing Committee directs OPM to undertake the revision process, OPM will process the application in accordance with its regulations.

Sincerely,

W. David LeVasseur, Undersecretary Intergovernmental Policy Division

Attachment:

Interim Change application, Landel Realty, LLC

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April 25, 2008

Robert L. Genuario, Secretary Office of Policy and Management State of Connecticut 450 Capitol Avenue Hartford, CT 06106-1379

Re:

Interim Amendment to Locational Map for Conservation and Development Policies Plan for Connecticut, 2005-2010.

Dear Secretary Genuario:

I am writing on behalf of Landel Realty, LLC to request an interim amendment to the Locational Map for Waterford incorporated in the Conservation and Development Policies Plan for Connecticut, 2005-2010 ("State Plan"), pursuant to Section 16a-32(b)(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

The applicant is an option owner of property located in Waterford, Connecticut west of Bloomingdale Road and East of Vauxhall Street Extension, as shown on the attached maps. The owner of record is CDK Associates, LLC, which has authorized the applicant to submit this application to your agency. As required by Section 16a-24b-2 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, I am submitting this application in triplicate with supporting documentation consisting of:

- 1) the required depiction of the land area proposed to be changed outlined on a U.S. Geological Survey topographic series map at a scale of 1:24,000 (1"-2,000") and identified as Area 1; and
- three supplemental drawings at a more detailed scale showing a) the existing designations and development at and surrounding the property, titled "Existing Designations;" b) the proposed designations which my client seeks on the property, titled "Proposed Designations;" and c) a map, titled "Gravity Feed Sewer," showing the feasibility of a gravity sewer to serve the property, the location of existing off-site sanitary sewer service to which the property would

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connect on Hillcrest Street, and the location of an existing sanitary sewer on the property itself at the southern end of the site.

The property is approximately 171 acres in size. Although the Existing Designations and the Proposed Designations maps show some areas of preserved open space on the parcel, our surveyor believes this is a cartographic artifact and that there are no conservation easements recorded on the land records for this property. As you will see by comparing the foregoing two drawings, the bulk of the property is currently designated as Conservation Area, with a large area of Preservation Area in the northwestern part of the property. The applicant wishes to have a portion of the property as shown on the Proposed Designations drawing, changed from Conservation Area to Neighborhood Conservation, to permit the development of a subdivision utilizing sewer and water, while preserving almost 60% of the property as open space. The applicant is not proposing any change to the Preservation Area in this application. In the future, if this map change is authorized, and the water pollution control authority and planning and zoning commissions in Waterford approve the proposal, the areas currently designated as Conservation Areas and Preserved Open Space will be subject to a Conservation Easement and will be eligible for the Existing Preserved Open Space designation.

In reviewing the Locational Map, it is not immediately apparent why the area where the subdivision is proposed is classified as Conservation Area rather than Rural Land, except that it may be within the watershed of Lake Brandegee, which the City of New London has abandoned as a reservoir. If that is the reason for the Conservation Area designation, it is no longer appropriate.

The Neighborhood Conservation Area, which is the classification the applicant seeks for 70 acres of the property, is designed to "promote infill development in areas that are at least 80 percent built up and have existing water, sewer and transportation infrastructure to support such development."

As you can see from the three maps, the Neighborhood Conservation designation is applied to the developed properties on either side of the property, and the Area 1 parcel is currently served by an existing sewer line at its southern end. Reclassification of the property is unlikely to have an adverse impact on any of the surrounding properties, and would have the benefit of making approximately 100 acres eligible for a conservation easement should the project move forward.

In summary, the applicant seeks an amendment of the State Plan Locational Map for Waterford to amend the classification of his property from Conservation Area to Neighborhood Conservation and, for the foregoing reasons, respectfully requests the Secretary to grant the change.

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While I will allow the municipal officials to speak for themselves through the amendment process, it is my understanding that my client has spoken informally to staff of various departments in Waterford, and has made a presentation to the Waterford Utility Commission, the town's water pollution control authority, about the project. Unfortunately, it is my understanding that the Utility Commission will not act on the proposal unless the Locational Map is changed, and my client cannot obtain planning and zoning approvals until the Utility Commission indicates the property map be connected to the Town's sewer.

If you have any questions on the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Gregory A. Sharp

Enclosures:

U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Map Three Drawings

cc:

Mr. Anthony Silvestri, Landel Realty, LLC James Bernardo Land Surveying, LLC CDK Associates, LLC







